CLAIMS

1. A device for receiving a stream of data, said device comprising:

identifying means for identifying a first plurality of portions of data from said received stream of data and producing a first output stream;

first output means for outputting said first output stream;

selecting means for selecting a second plurality of portions of data from said received stream of data and producing an alternative output steam;

determining means for determining the relative timing of said second plurality of portions of data; and

second output means for outputting said alternative output stream, wherein the relative timing between portions of data in the received stream of data and in the alternative output steam is maintained.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stream of data comprises a plurality of data packets and said plurality of portions of data occur within a packet.

3. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein each portion of data comprises a byte of data.

4. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein means are provided for identifying which of said plurality of data packets comprise data to be output by said output means.

5. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein storage means are provided for storing information for each portion of a packet indicating if the portion of data is valid or invalid.

6. A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said information comprises a data portion valid signal.

7. A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the storage means comprises a first-in-first-out buffer.

8. A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein each data packet includes information identifying the beginning of said packet and means are provided for identifying the beginning of each packet.

9. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said means for identifying the beginning of a packet provides an output for controlling the timing of the output of the selected data by said output means.

10. A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein a fixed latency is provided between the input plurality of portions of data received by the device and the output of those selected portions of data.

11. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein means are provided for storing the selected portions of said data.

12. A device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means for storing the selected portions of data stores only the selected portions of data.

13. A device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means for storing the selected portions of data is a first in first out buffer.

14. A device as claimed in claim 11 when appended to claim 4 wherein the output means comprises a state machine which controls the output of the selected portions of

data, said state machine receives outputs from said means for storing said selected portions of data, and said means for storing information on each portion of data.

15. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input stream conforms to the MPEG-2 standard.

16. A digital video device incorporating a device for receiving a stream of data, said device comprising:

identifying means for identifying a first plurality of portions of data from said received stream of data and producing a first output stream;

first output means for outputting said first output stream;

selecting means for selecting a second plurality of portions of data from said received stream of data and producing an alternative output steam;

determining means for determining the relative timing of said second plurality of portions of data; and

second output means for outputting said alternative output stream, wherein the relative timing between portions of data in the received stream of data and in the alternative output steam is maintained.

17. A method of processing a stream of data comprising the steps of:

receiving a stream of data;

identifying a first plurality of portions of data from said received stream of data and producing a first output stream;

outputting said first output stream;

selecting a second plurality of portions of data from said received stream of data and producing an alternative output stream;

determining the relative timing of said second plurality of portions of data; and

outputting the alternative output stream, wherein the relative timing between portions of data in the received stream of data and in the alternative output stream is maintained.

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